

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for providing incentive award information to a customer, said method comprising:

obtaining customer information of a customer from an input device;

transmitting said customer information to a remotely located host computer;

in response to said customer information at said host computer, retrieving and transmitting incentive award information associated with said customer information from said host computer to said input device;

displaying said incentive award information on said input device;

in response to scanning of a product on said input device by said customer, said product having an associated award, updating incentive award information of said customer with the addition of said new product code;

displaying said updated incentive award information on said input device;

and

alerting said customer in response to said updated incentive award information reaches a predetermined threshold from an award plateau.

1 2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said input device is a portable input device.

1 3. The method of Claim 1, wherein said method further includes a step of alerting said
2 customer in response to said updated incentive award information falls within a
3 predetermined range from an award plateau.

1 4. The method of Claim 1, wherein said method further includes a step of confirming
2 a purchase of said product by said customer by selecting one of a plurality of options.

1 5. A system for providing incentive award information to a customer, said system
2 comprising:

3 means for obtaining customer information of a customer from an input
4 device;

5 means for transmitting said customer information to a remotely located host
6 computer;

7 means for retrieving and transmitting incentive award information associated
8 with said customer information from said host computer to said input device, in
9 response to said customer information at said host computer;

10 means for displaying said incentive award information on said input device;

11 means for updating incentive award information of said customer with the
12 addition of said new product code, in response to scanning of a product on said
13 input device by said customer, said product having an associated award;

14 means for displaying said updated incentive award information on said input
15 device; and

16 means for alerting said customer in response to said updated incentive award
17 information reaches a predetermined threshold from an award plateau.

1 6. The system of Claim 5, wherein said input device is a portable input device.

1 7. The system of Claim 5, wherein said system further includes a means for alerting
2 said customer in response to said updated incentive award information falls within a
3 predetermined range from an award plateau.

1 8. The system of Claim 5, wherein said system further includes a means for confirming
2 a purchase of said product by said customer by selecting one of a plurality of options.